

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 21, 1879.

NLM

Mr. WITHERS asked and, by unanimous consent, obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Select Committee to investigate and report the best means of preventing the introduction and spread of Epidemic Diseases.

A BILL

For creating a national public health organization.

Whereas by the third section of the act incorporating the National Academy of Sciences, approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, it is provided that "the Academy shall, whenever called upon by any department of the government, investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art"; and

Whereas it is believed that the time has come when the United States, following the example of other civilized governments, should provide, within the limits of its constitutional authority, means for the purpose of preserving and promoting the public health and preventing the origin or spread of epidemics, and that for this purpose it is essential that the general government should be furnished with as full and reliable information and advice as possible in regard to the points which should be embraced in such legislation: Therefore,

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the National Academy of Sciences be, and the same is

4 hereby, requested and directed to report to Congress, at its
5 next session, a plan for a national public health organization ;
6 which plan shall be prepared after consultation with the prin-
7 cipal sanitary organizations and sanitarians of the several
8 States and of the United States, and shall be accompanied by
9 the evidence of their opinions and recommendations.

10 In this report, special attention shall be given to the sub-
11 ject of quarantine, both maritime and inland, and especially
12 as to the relations which should be established between State
13 or local systems of quarantine and a national quarantine
14 system.

1 SEC. 2. That upon the request of the Academy, the
2 Secretary of any Department, and also the Attorney-General,
3 are authorized to detail officers from their several departments
4 to advise with the Academy in regard to the matters above
5 referred to, and to aid in the preparation of the report.

1 SEC. 3. That to meet the expenses for clerical work
2 issuing of circulars, and other work necessary to enable the
3 Academy to carry out the purposes of this act, the sum
4 of is hereby appropriated, to be expended, or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary, under the direction of the
6 Academy, and to be duly accounted for, with proper vouchers,
7 to the Secretary of the Treasury.

4TH CONGRESS, }
3D SESSION. } **S. 1663.**

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